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HOUSE RESOLUTION 68
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to continue the special House Committee on Earthquake Preparedness authorized by House Resolution 200 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is an area at extremely high risk of experiencing an earthquake of major proportions; many citizens of our state would be placed at risk of death or serious injury by a major earthquake; and

WHEREAS, an earthquake of major proportions would necessitate the presence of a variety of state and local agencies to coordinate preparation and response; and

WHEREAS, a severe earthquake in our state would also cause considerable damage to private property, as well as Tennessee's roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, experts contend that the extent of the damage caused by an earthquake is dependent on the amount of advance preparedness; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of this often hidden problem and the need to find effective ways to lessen the impact of earthquakes in Tennessee, House Resolution 200 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly, which authorized a committee to study the topic of earthquake preparedness, was adopted; and

WHEREAS, the committee has held hearings on the application of building codes to Memphis and Shelby County, the progress of bridge and road earthquake retrofitting and on

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scientific research and early response to post-quake data; and

WHEREAS, the committee has held these hearings at a meticulous and steady pace, has heard from experts and has performed authoritative work, and its mandate should be continued; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That the special House committee to study Earthquake Preparedness is hereby continued for a period of one (1) year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the present members of the committee shall continue to serve on the committee; provided, that such members are duly elected members of the 100th General Assembly. All vacancies shall be filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the present chair of the committee shall call and convene the first meeting of the committee after the adoption of this resolution. At such meeting, the committee shall elect two (2) Co-Chairs who shall share duties and responsibilities; the committee shall elect such other officers as it deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the special committee who are duly elected members of the 100th General Assembly shall remain members of the committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in its deliberations, the committee shall research the measures other states are taking to ensure earthquake preparedness in their respective jurisdictions. The purpose of such research shall be to assist in the preparation of appropriate legislation to improve and fortify Tennessee's efforts in earthquake preparedness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall also study the important issues of earthquake insurance and related insurance coverage problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall complete its research no later than December 31, 1997 and shall report its final findings and recommendations to the One-Hundredth General Assembly, no later than February 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.